

18 August 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, TK Modification Working Group

FROM:

Security Consultant to COMIREX

SUBJECT: Classification Guidance for Program Designators and Codewords (U)

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum to TKMWG Members, dated 25 July 1980; Same Subject (TCS-1459/80)

1. My comments solicited by reference follow. (U)

2. There is no objection to the "Interim Classification Chart for System Codewords and Program Designators" circulated as an attachment to reference with the exception of items 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, and 5.4 under Organizational and Program Terms. The "Interim Classification Chart" should be amended to show that the organizational terms, National Reconnaissance Office (5.1) and National Reconnaissance Program (5.3) and the program terms NRO (5.2) and NRP (5.4) are unclassified and uncontrolled when standing alone. (S/TK)

3. Not only have some one hundred thousand persons been officially informed over the course of the past 15 years of the meaning of these terms, but the terms have been used in the mass media to a degree where the general public cannot but assume that they are de facto not classified. Therefore, in applying the current policy guideline for protecting certain national security information from disclosure, namely, Executive Order 12065 which is the only basis for

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classifying information, it is difficult to argue that these terms any longer merit compartmented control as "particularly sensitive information" held "among a reasonably small number of people", the test established in Section 4-2 of the Executive Order. Moreover, when the Executive Order's test for classification at the SECRET level is applied, it is difficult to accept that the disclosure of these terms "reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to the national security," let alone "identifiable damage", the test applicable for the lower CONFIDENTIAL classification level. (U)

4. Inasmuch as action is underway to normalize the use of the organizational/program terms National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and National Reconnaissance Program (NRP) by Intelligence Community elements directly involved and since the purpose of the new APEX Special Access Control System is to eliminate peripheral data, which these terms represent, to give compartmentation meaning, it is suggested that the Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX), not include these terms pending outcome of the above action. (S/TK) 25X1A

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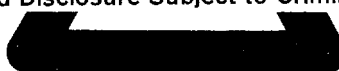


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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
NOCONTRACT-	Not Releasable to Contractors or Contractor/Consultants
PROPIN-	Caution-Proprietary Information Involved
USIBONLY-	USIB Departments Only
ORCON-	Dissemination and Extraction of Information Controlled by Originator
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